

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striking through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (currently amended) A communication assistance method performed by a communication assistance device used in a communication device capable of simultaneously carrying out two-way communication among a plurality of users sharing the same ~~network channel~~, said communication assistance device and said communication device residing in a user terminal, said method including ~~the steps of~~:

correlating conditions relating to a transmission object to said ~~any~~ same network channel with the processings for said transmission object;

acquiring from said communication device information relating to said ~~network channel~~ in accordance with said conditions and said processings;

prior to transmission of said transmission object to said ~~network channel~~, determining based on said acquired ~~network channel~~ information whether said transmission object meets at least one of said conditions;

conducting at least one of said processings on said transmission object based on said determination results, and sending said processed transmission object via said communication device to said ~~network channel~~.

2. (currently amended) A communication assistance device used in a communication device capable of simultaneously carrying out two-way communication among a plurality of users sharing the same ~~network channel~~, said communication assistance device and said communication device residing in a user terminal, comprising:

first storage means wherein conditions relating to a transmission object to said ~~any same network channel~~ are correlated with processings for said transmission object, and then stored;

acquisition means acquiring said ~~network channel~~ -related information from said communication device in accordance with said conditions and processings;

determination means determining, based on said acquired ~~network channel~~ information, whether at least one of said conditions is met with regard to said transmission object prior to the sending thereof to said ~~network channel~~; and

execution means carrying out at least one of said processings on said transmission object based on said determination results, and sending said processed transmission object to said ~~network~~ channel by means of said communication device.

3. (original) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings, and

registration means accepting input of said user information from a user, and storing the same in said second storage means.

4. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings, and

registration means setting said user information based on said ~~network~~ channel information, and storing the same in said second storage means.

5. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein ~~network~~ channel information that said acquisition means acquires from said communication device includes at least information specifying the ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent and transmission content.

6. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein ~~network~~ channel information that said acquisition means acquires from said communication device includes at least information specifying the ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent and transmission content, and,

when said transmission object meets said condition, said execution means notifies a user of said met condition and transmission content, and depending on the response from the user to said notice, either transmits said transmission object to said ~~network~~ channel or cancels such transmission.

7. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means storing users classified into classifications, wherein:

said first storage means stores as a condition, that in a ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent, the number of users belonging to a classification is within a range; and

said determination means determines, based on classified users in said second storage means, whether or not said transmission object meets said condition.

8. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means storing attributes of a ~~network~~ channel with which said

communication device is communicating, wherein:

said first storage means stores, as a condition, that the ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent has an attribute; and

said determination means determines whether said condition is met based on attributes of the ~~network~~ channel to which the transmission object is to be sent, said attributes being stored in said second storage means.

9. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means correlating the time of the latest message included in said transmission object within said ~~network~~ channel with said ~~network~~ channel and storing this correlated information;

wherein:

said first storage means stores as a condition, that a length of time has elapsed since the latest message was sent_ into the ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent; and

said determination means determines whether said transmission object meets said condition based on the time of the latest message in said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent.

10. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein, stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that when a communications address is included in said transmission content, said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent and said communications address belong to different computer ~~network~~ channels, and

said determination means determines whether said transmission object meets said condition based on the domain name of said communication device and the domain name of the information terminal providing said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent.

11. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, further comprising second storage means storing a correlation table containing degree of relevance between prescribed words, wherein:

stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that the content of transmission object does not match the atmosphere of said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent, and

said determination means seeks degree of relevance between earlier communication content and content of said transmission object based on said correlation table, and determines

whether said transmission object meets said condition by comparing said sought degree of correlation and a reference value.

12. (original) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that the usage rate of a language in previous communications is within a certain range, and

said determination means determines the usage rate of said language based on identifiers marking the beginning and end of said language.

13. (currently amended) A communication assistance device according claim 2, wherein stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that said transmission object contains a word that another user has made a keyword in said ~~network~~ channel to which said transmission object is to be sent, and

said determination means creates beforehand a list of said keywords based on said acquired ~~network~~ channel information, and based on said created keyword list, determines whether or not said keyword is included in said transmission object.

14. (original) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that said transmission object is not in a format, and

said determination means determines whether said transmission object is written in said format or not based on the transmission object acquired from said acquisition means.

15. (original) A communication assistance device according to claim 2, wherein stored as a condition in said first storage means is, that any portion of a communication in previously transmitted object has been selected, and

when said transmission object meets said condition, said execution means adds information indicating that said transmission object is a response to said selected message to said transmission object.

16. (currently amended) A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a communication assistance program executed by a communication assistance device used in a communication device capable of simultaneously carrying out two-way communication among a plurality of users sharing the same ~~network~~ channel, said communication assistance device and said communication device residing on a user terminal, said program executing ~~the steps of:~~

A: correlating conditions relating to a transmission object to said ~~any same~~ network channel with processings for said transmission object and storing said conditions and processings;

B: acquiring from said communication device information relating to said ~~network~~ channel in accordance with said conditions and processings;

C: prior to the transmission of said transmission object to said ~~network~~ channel, determining based on said acquired ~~network~~ channel information whether said transmission object meets at least one of said conditions;

D: conducting at least one of said processings on said transmission object based on said determination results, and sending said processed transmission object to said ~~network~~ channel over said communication device.

17. (new) A communication assistance method according to claim 1, further comprising:

storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings; and

accepting input of said user information from a user and storing said input.

18. (new) A computer-readable recording medium according to claim 16, wherein said program further executes the steps of:

storing user-dependent user information which corresponds to said conditions and processings; and

accepting input of said user information from a user and storing said input.

19. (new) A communication assistance method, comprising:

correlating conditions of an object to be transmitted over a communications medium with processings for the object; and

transmitting the object over the communications medium as a processed object if the object meets at least one of the conditions or transmitting the object over the communications medium as an unprocessed object if the object fails to meet any of the conditions.